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monotonous chant of three or four lines; the last phrase of each line was very often *go deo deo-deo* (= for aye, aye, aye), the vowel sound of *e* easily accommodating itself to the prolonged chant. Another termination was *nios-mó-mó-mó* (= no more, more, more). I still recollect one touching line of the dirge: it was—*td mo theachin follamh go deo-deo-deo*, 'my little house is empty for evermore, more, more.' Unfortunately, I know nothing about music, but the chant reminded me of the fourth line of the old air of 'The Blackbird.' "

Owing to the stone of the island not being easily worked the grave-stones are usually rough, shapeless slabs, or are rudely chipped into the form of a cross, while the rest of the grave is covered with flat stones.

A large number of the men formerly went as harvesters to England and Scotland, where some of the young girls still go as servants; but very few do so now, though they say the harvesting paid well. It is more the fashion now to go to America even for a few years; and instances have occurred of people shutting up their houses, leaving all their furniture and utensils as they were, going off to the United States for three or four years, and then coming back, resuming possession, and falling into all the old ways and customs as if nothing very unusual had occurred. It is quite a common occurrence for young men to go to America for seven or eight years (generally to the neighbourhood of Pittsburg to work at the foundries there), at the end of that time to return home, settle down, and get married. Many of the girls go to Scotland, as servants, for five or six months of the year to assist their parents at home.

3. *Food*.—The dietary is much more varied than that of many of the inhabitants of the inland districts; it consists largely of fish of various kinds, potatoes, and home-made bread. Flesh meat is rarely tasted except at Christmas or some other great occasion, when a little mutton may be eaten, but fowl and geese are occasionally used. The fish which forms the staple of the diet is eaten fresh in spring and summer time, and large supplies of it are salted and dried in the sun for the winter's use; the kinds cured are mainly ling, sea-bream, and glassan.

Butter and cheese are not used; and eggs, though forming part of the regular food, are mostly employed as a purchasing medium for tea, sugar, tobacco, &c., at the principal shop, whence they are forwarded to Westport.

Tea has come greatly into use, and is taken in large quantities with

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from plants growing in the district as formerly, but are imported. 286
There are several weavers in the district, and the clothes are made up
by a local tailor. One unusual occupation, that of cloth miller or
presser is carried on by a man in Belmullet, who uses a rather primi-
tive press of his own construction.

There is very little regular employment for labourers, except 464
that given by a few of the resident gentry and some of the people
of Belmullet. Labourers receive 1s. 6d. a day, or a 1s. and their 465
food; if at harvest time, threshing or employed at cutting turf,
slightly more, about 2s. a day.

Little or no work is done by the majority of the men during the 222
winter months, except to gather a little drift weed along the coast.

The women attend to the ordinary duties of the house, assist at 462
field work and at bringing home turf; they gather and dry carrageen
moss (*sphaerococcus crispus*) which they sell at the rate of 2s. a stone
(unbleached); they also card and spin the wool. Old women often
get employment going from house to house oiling, carding, and 887
spinning the wool for the household; for this work they receive
2s. a week and their keep.

2. *Family Life and Customs*.—The general characters of family life 871
are much the same as those of the people of Inishbofin.

The children, who are usually numerous, are sent to school, if
at all, at about five years of age; they show plenty of aptness at
acquiring knowledge, but as their attendance is very irregular,
through their being wanted at home to help their parents, their
progress is much impeded. When they reach the age of fourteen
or fifteen years they leave school and enter into the regular work
of the household until they have attained means either to marry
and settle down or to emigrate.

Some few of the girls, after leaving school, go out as domestic 357 ●
servants either in local situations or to England or Scotland.

Both sexes usually marry young, the matches being arranged by 58
the parents, and money rather than romance being the chief element
in the case, as a projected marriage is often abandoned owing to
disputes between parents without the young people themselves being
consulted in the matter. Love-making, except in the case of engaged
couples, but seldom occurs, but that it does sometimes happen is 832
shown by the number and variety of love-charms and omens. As
in most other parts of Ireland the majority of marriages occur before
Shrove. When full agreements have been made by the parents, the
young man goes and asks the girl personally. If he be refused, he does